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NSC BRIEFING

6 November 1960

SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

- I. We have evidence to indicate that meetings in October in Moscow between top-ranking Russians and Chinese were a fiasco.

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C. The lack of progress toward settlement is also shown by Peiping's public statements following the talks.

1. The 31 October issue of the Chinese journal, Red Flag--contrary to some erroneous press interpretations--reiterated a hard line.
2. The journal scored "fuzzy-minded" people--presumably Khrushchev--for "preposterous" views.
3. The present time, argued the Chinese, is "unprecedentedly favorable" for violent seizure of state power, not for Khrushchev's gradualist strategy.

NSA review completed

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- II. The recent Soviet stand is equally tough.
- A. Khrushchev's 20 October speech stood firm on Moscow's views.
 - B. The latest issue of the Soviet journal Problems of Philosophy implicitly warns Peiping that its obstinacy may lead to economic isolation from the bloc.

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- III. The stage is now set in Moscow for the meeting of world Communist leaders and another try at a Sino-Soviet settlement.
- A. The ostensible occasion is the 43rd anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. The top leaders of bloc parties, who do not usually attend the celebration, began to gather early.
 - B. Peiping's delegation is an unusually strong one. It is led by Liu Shao-chi (Lyoo Shao-chee), who heads the Chinese Communist government and is second in the party hierarchy.

1. The delegation includes five other politburo members, of whom three have taken part in earlier discussions with the USSR.
 2. The composition of the delegation suggests that its primary mission will be a strong affirmation and defense of Peiping's views in its doctrinal dispute with the Soviet Union.
 3. The Chinese delegation was greeted by Khrushchev at the Moscow airport but the welcoming speech by titular chief of state Brezhnev and Liu's reply indicated no retreat by either side from previously-expressed positions.
- C. The present meeting may end like previous ones with a communiqué indicating superficial unity but without real settlement or a showdown.
- IV. The traditional anniversary speech, given this year by Presidium member Kozlov, also upheld Moscow's position in the controversy.
- A. He stressed that the policy of peaceful coexistence is a strong factor in preventing war, and claimed that Moscow's foreign policy had achieved tangible results.

1. While paying the usual tribute to Bloc solidarity, Kozlov probably had the Chinese in mind when he asserted that the strength of the Bloc depended on "an ability to understand correctly and apply Marxism-Leninism in new historical conditions."
- B. The Chinese, in preliminary speeches and articles honoring the anniversary, also praised Bloc unity, but gave no indication of a retreat from their position.
 1. An article by Madame Sun Yat-sen singled out the "preservation of the purity of Marxism-Leninism against the assaults of modern revisionists" as the foundation for solidarity in the Bloc. Peiping often uses the term "modern revisionists" as an oblique reference to Moscow.
 2. A speech by Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi also took issue with standard Soviet positions by claiming that Communism can come to power only by revolutionary means.
- C. TASS reports that the first private meeting between Khrushchev and the Chinese took place Sunday. The meetings reportedly will last until the 19th or 20th of November.

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